

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

The CANADIAN PHILATELIST,

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Fiscals.

The question whether we shall or shall not include fiscals in our collections, or provide a separate album, with a view of making researches in this class of stamps equally as fervent and energetic as the great majority of collectors now do in regard to postage stamps, has occupied the minds of many of the most learned writers versed in philately ; it being acknowledged a question of great moment and interest to the philatelic world at large, and at the same time a question for which a satisfactory solution would be highly desirable.

It is a well known thing, however—in fact, a foregone conclusion—that much of the writing referred to is in reality nothing more or less than a puff of some prospering dealer in “things postal” and otherwise, who, cognizant probably of the apothegm that advertising and printer's ink go hand in hand to wealth and fortune, employs the talent of some fluent writer, possessing in a more or less marked degree the gift, shall we call it, of placing before his readers a glowing account of the advantages or disadvantages

produced by adopting this or that branch of our science.

It is by no means an uncommon thing to find some of the professed stamp journals of to-day advocating not only the collection of fiscals as a proper and desirable accompaniment in every album, but post marks also. Some go as far as to advise the inclusion of vaccination forms and other official documents bearing the impressed ½ d stamp. We must give the palm to postage stamps, however, as the most satisfying and instructive of the two pursuits, but would nevertheless never willingly debar anyone who can afford to collect fiscals from doing so.—*The Collector.*

For the CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

The Coins of Canada.

BY JOSEPH HOOPER, NUMISMATIST, PORT HOPE, ONT.

Numismatics, or the science whose aim is the study of coins, is independent to the student of history. Coins are ever of interest, and a source of enjoyment, and this alone is a pleasurable indemnity for investments. Nor are coins of less value to the artist. As an illustrator of History they give fair, reliable representatives of Persons, Places, Incidents, and Objects. Who can look at a collection of Roman coin without feeling that he has before him the likenesses of men “at whose names the world grew pale.”

Coins are also monuments of art, ideas and attainments at successive periods in the history of nations.

From whichever of these sources which has awakened an interest in numismatics in the possessor of a number of coins, the first business is to classify according to country or nationality, always aiming at superior preservation. A small collection of superior pieces is preferable to a large one of poor and defaced ones. The eye has no pleasure in the study of the latter, while the former is a sense of gratification. Some pride themselves on the character and condition